

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending August 22, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending August 22, 2004**. Dry weather conditions during the week allowed for harvesting to continue before rain showers arrived over the weekend. Cooler temperatures experienced a few weeks ago has caused a delay in cotton maturation with the open boll stage not progressing as well as it has in the past. Farmers have seen an increase in hay production due to rains experienced in late June and early July. Soil moisture was rated 10 percent very short, 22 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	100	99	100	100	1	3	17	47	32
	Dent	99	94	97	98					
	Mature	90	70	68	80					
	Harvested	40	17	15	32					
	Silage Harvested	96	92	96	81					
Cotton	Setting Bolls	100	98	98	100	2	7	23	47	21
	Open Bolls	22	7	19	40					
Rice	Heading	100	98	97	95	0	1	10	60	29
	Mature	40	20	27	30					
	Harvested	3	1	4	3					
Sorghum	Turning Color	97	95	97	96	0	1	16	64	19
	Mature	75	55	66	66					
	Harvested	24	5	13	21					
Soybeans	Setting Pods	100	99	98	99	1	6	14	46	33
	Turning Color	70	54	51	47					
	Shedding Leaves	50	34	31	29					
	Harvested	25	9	11	7					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	74	70	84	80	7	6	30	46	11
Sweetpotatoes						1	8	36	46	9
Cattle						2	6	15	59	18
Pasture						5	8	22	53	12

### County Agent Comments

“As weeks pass, it has become more apparent that late planted and weather-damaged cotton will not likely have time to produce a "normal" crop this year. Recent cool weather has caused many fields to begin the final stages of maturation with reddening leaves showing in most fields. Corn and soybean harvesting has started, but local showers will likely hold up progress for now.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Warmer temperatures and scattered showers summarize the weather for the past week. Most showers were one-half inch or less. Row crops continue maturing with corn harvest to begin right away. Soybeans really need rain to fill pods. Cotton is developing slowly with no open bolls observed thus far. Pastures and hay fields need more rain if we are to have an ample forage supply this winter.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“A dry period allowed farmers to gather a good bit of hay, but rains this week have halted hay harvesting. Farmers are preparing to break ground for planting of winter forages.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“High humidity is helping to promote plant disease in fall horticulture crops and landscape plants.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Pastures and hay fields are beginning to show some stress due to the lack of rain.”

— Walter Walker, Jackson

“Rainfall received at the end of the week will be of benefit to soybeans and cotton. Most corn is mature and harvesting had started before the rainfall.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“We received about one inch of rain last night which stopped all soybean, rice and corn harvesting. Some cotton is being sprayed for plant bugs, but most of it is finished.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“Cotton and late soybeans need a good rain. Milo, early beans and rice need dry weather.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“We are still in need of some rain in most areas of the county. Crops are drying down fast with little or no moisture. Potential yields for all crops are good.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Beans are drying down slowly, even after desiccations. We will start cutting again after the rain clears out. The rain should help our pastures, hay fields, and cotton.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn harvest has begun with above average yields. Cotton is still trying to set bolls. Hot, dry weather has hurt late beans, and much needed rain was welcomed late last week. Insect pressure has been light, but some spider mites are showing up in cotton.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Excellent progress was being made harvesting corn and soybeans until the rains started falling Friday and continued throughout the weekend. In the harvested fields, some disking, liming and fall fertilizer applications have been completed.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Rains stopped harvest Thursday night. Good yields are being reported. No cotton has been defoliated at this time, and there has been little insect spraying taking place.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Forages of all types have been showing slowed growth patterns since the rains have slowed down in frequency and amount. Armyworms have made themselves known in the area, but don't seem to be as bad as previous years.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Although isolated rains fell this past week, more rain is needed. Corn and soybean harvest began. Cotton roots that were damaged from the early heavy rains are still showing problems. Sweetpotato harvest will begin in earnest within the week. Insect pressures remain light in most areas.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Light rain showers Saturday were not enough to significantly improve soil moisture conditions. Late soybeans desperately need rain to avoid tremendous yield loss. Corn for grain harvest and warm season hay harvest continue in full swing. Plowing cool season pastures and hay fields in preparation for planting has ceased as producers wait for a good, deep-soaking rain to soften soils.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Both cotton and peanuts look good. Hay is being cut and baled at every break in the weather. Army worms are showing up. Some land is being broken up in preparation for ryegrass. We are seeing more agricultural land in the county being split up for housing developments.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“We need a good rain. Hay harvest has been in full swing and most folks have caught up with the harvest of summer grasses. Cotton and peanuts need some rain in order to fill pods and bolls at this stage of the game.”

— Mike Steede, George

“Rains received over the weekend helped relieve dry conditions over the county.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Rain over the weekend is helping keep grass growing for pastures and hay. Armyworms are bad in a lot of Bermuda grass fields. Cattle is looking really good. Fall gardens are benefitting from the recent rain. Soybeans are looking pretty good, but producers are having to keep a check on loopers and bean leaf beetles.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Rains late in the week brought relief from dry weather to most of the county. Pastures were beginning to show signs of drought stress. Many producers took advantage of the dry weather to prepare winter grazing fields.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Rain in June and July has provided soil moisture to pastures and hay fields which should insure adequate feed for cattle now and in the winter. Producers are reporting that hay supplies will be higher than last year's yields.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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**Weather Summary from August 16, 2004 to August 22, 2004 for Mississippi**

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	94	51	74	79	-5	2.11	+1.41	3	4.44				
Cleveland	94	56	76	80	-4	0.88	+0.57	3	1.27				
Tunica				80		0.30	-0.21	2	0.79				0.20
Extreme/Average	94	51	75	80	-5	1.50	+0.94	3	2.86				
2. North-Central													
HickoryFlat	91	50	72	78	-6	0.59	-0.18	2	1.37				
Calhoun City	89	53	73	79	-6	1.51	+0.81	2	3.07				
Independence	91	51	73	79	-6	0.87	+0.20	2	1.11				
Oxford	92	49	73	78	-5	0.65	-0.12	2	0.93				
Extreme/Average	92	49	73	79	-6	0.91	+0.21	2	1.62				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	95	56	75	78	-3	0.55	-0.20	2	1.32				
Iuka	89	46	70	76	-6	0.95	+0.11	3	4.38				
Ripley	90	53	71	78	-7	0.86	+0.23	3	2.17				
Tupelo	92	58	76			1.23		2	1.87				
Verona				80		0.77	-0.10	2	1.36				0.28
Extreme/Average	95	46	73	79	-6	0.90	+0.20	3	2.44				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	91	61	77	81	-4	1.24	+0.75	3	3.99				
RollingFork	95	58	76	81	-5	0.46	-0.10	3	2.35	98	71	85	
Stoneville	93	57	76	81	-5	0.73	+0.31	3	1.15				0.22
YazooCity	92	54	75	81	-6	1.57	+0.84	3	1.97				
Extreme/Average	95	54	76	81	-5	1.00	+0.44	3	2.37	98	71	85	0.22
5. Central													
Canton	90			81		1.56	+0.87	3	3.14				
Carthage	90	53	72	80	-8	1.82	+1.05	3	5.46				
Lexington	91	53	73	79	-6	0.86	+0.23	3	1.51				
Eupora	91	54	74	79	-5	1.11	+0.48	2	3.36				
Extreme/Average	91	53	73	80	-7	1.34	+0.63	3	3.37				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	92	53	76	79	-3	0.51	-0.12	3	1.67				0.25
Houston	90	49	73	78	-5	1.50	+0.83	3	4.54				
Louisville				79		0.30	-0.33	2	1.81				
StateUniversity	93	56	75	80	-5	0.21	-0.49	2	0.34	85	76	80	0.23
Extreme/Average	93	49	75	80	-5	0.63	-0.07	3	2.09	85	76	80	0.24
7. Southwest													
CrystalSprings	92	59	76	81	-5	2.45	+1.64	3	3.87	95	75	84	
Natchez	92	56	76	81	-5	0.11	-0.80	2	1.75				
Oakley	95	53	76	80	-4	2.98	+2.14	1	3.93	98	79	88	
Vicksburg	91	53	74			3.36		2	4.92				
Extreme/Average	95	53	75	81	-6	2.23	+1.33	2	3.62	98	75	86	
8. South-Central													
Collins	92	55	75	80	-5	0.67	-0.22	2	1.15				
Columbia	92	57	76	81	-5	1.80	+0.82	2	6.06				
Tylertown	92	56	75	81	-6	0.95	-0.10	2	5.93				
Extreme/Average	92	55	76	81	-5	1.14	+0.16	2	4.38				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	95	57	77			0.30		2	1.53				
Hattiesburg	94	58	76	81	-5	1.19	+0.14	2	3.15				
Laurel	92	58	76	81	-5	0.61	-0.28	2	5.51				
Newton				79		0.64	-0.20	3	3.25				0.19
Extreme/Average	95	57	76	80	-4	0.69	-0.14	2	3.36				0.19
10. Coastal													
BayStLouis				82		0.30	-1.03	2	2.97				
Gulfport	89	66	80	82	-2	0.53	-0.73	3	3.82				
Poplarville	93	61	77	81	-4	1.16	+0.09	2	5.25	94	71	82	0.24
Waveland	92	63	78	81	-3	1.03	-0.21	2	3.83				
Extreme/Average	93	61	78	81	-3	0.91	-0.32	2	4.30	94	71	82	0.24
State	95	46	75	80	-5	1.15	+0.37	2	3.05	98	71	83	0.23

DFN = Departure from Normal.